

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 stand in the present application, claim 1 having been amended. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-5 and 10-25, but respectfully submits that in view of the above-described amendments to claim 1, that all of claims 1-25 are now in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Murade and has rejected claims 1 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rho et al. In view of the above-described claim amendments to claim 1, the Examiner's § 102 and 103 rejections of the claims are believed to have been overcome as will be described in greater detail below.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite that at least one upper and lower shading layer has a sloped portion to form a convex shape with an outermost portion of the convex shape being directly opposite to a gate electrode of the switching element. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment further patentably distinguishes over the cited references, as will be described in more detail below.

In rejecting claim 1 over the Murade reference, the Examiner argues that the shielding layer 14 shown in Figure 6 is disposed opposite to and protruding toward the gate electrode. However, Figure 6 clearly shows that the convex portion of shielding layer 14 is not directly opposite to either of the gate electrodes 2. Rather, the convex portion of the shielding layer 14 is directly opposite to the region between the gate electrodes 2. Accordingly, claim 1 as

amended is believed to more clearly patentably define over the Murade reference.

In rejecting claim 1 over Rho, the Examiner erroneously states at page 3 of the final Office Action that the mask is not flat. To the contrary, at column 5, lines 20-22 Rho clearly states that the shielding layer 110 has a flat surface.

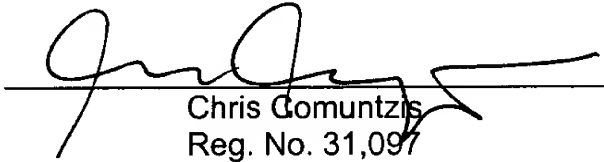
Accordingly, Rho is not believed to disclose a convex shaped shielding layer with the outermost portion of the convex shape directly opposite to a gate electrode.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 1-25, standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claim(s) by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Chris Gomuntzis
Reg. No. 31,097

CC:lmr
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) An active matrix liquid crystal display device comprising a liquid crystal cell, a switching element arranged in matrix, and shading layers mounted both on the upper side and the lower side of said switching element; wherein

at least one of the upper and lower shading layers having [includes a] sloped portions to form [and has] a convex shape with an outermost portion of said convex shape being directly [disposed] opposite to [and protruding toward] a gate electrode of said switching element.